

## Message Text

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41

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 ACDA-05 OMB-01 INRE-00 /067 W

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O R 211900Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9394

INFO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 4289

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, MOPS, ES, HO

SUBJECT: HONDURAN-SALVADORAN RELATIONS

1. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT SALVADORAN PRESIDENT MOLINA ATTEMPTED TO TELEPHONE HONDURAN CHIEF OF STATE MELGAR LAST WEEKEND TO ASSURE LATTER THAT GOES HAD NOT RPT NOT REINFORCED ANY OF ITS TROOPS ALONG BORDER WITH ONDURAS AND THAT THE ONLY TROOP SHIFTS THERE CONSISTED OF NORMAL PERIODIC RELIEFS OF LONG-ESTABLISHED SECURITY POSTS. MOLINA WAS UNABLE TO REACH MELGAR DESPITE SEVERAL CALLS TO HONDURAS.

2. IN CONVERSATION WITH FONMIN BORGONOVO AT RECEPTION OCTOBER 20, HE TOLD DCM THAT GOES FINALLY RECEIVED ON OCTOBER 17 FORMAL NOTIFICATION FROM OAS COMMITTEE OF SEVEN OF HONDURAN FONMIN GALVEZ'S PROPOSAL FOR RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS. BORGONOVO SAID THAT SALVADORAN INTRA-GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE WOULD COMPLETE ITS STUDY OF THAT PROPOSAL ON OCTOBER 22 AND SUBMIT REPORT FOR HIS  
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CONSIDERATION THAT DATE.

3. BORGONOVO EXPRESSED PUZZLEMENT OVER ALARMIST PRESS REPORTS FROM HONDURAS DURING PAST WEEK REGARDING ALLEGED TROOP REINFORCEMENTS AND COUNTER-MOVES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER WITH IMPLICATIONS THAT HOSTILITIES WERE IMMINENT. HE CONFIRMED THAT INsofar AS SALVADORAN TROOPS WERE CONCERNED, THESE PRESS REPORTS WERE COMPLETELY UNFOUNDED. HE, THEREFORE, WONDERED WHY THE GOH REPORTEDLY FELT THE NEED AND REINFORCED ITS TROOPS IN THE AREA IN QUESTION; AND SPECULATED THAT IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN A TACTIC BY THE GOH TO DIVERT DOMESTIC ATTENTION FROM CRISIS BREWING WITH CAMPESINO ORGANIZATIONS. HE WADBQONCERNED THAT THESE FABRICATED AND SENSATIONAL PRESS REPORTS WOULD DISCOURAGE FOREIGN INVESTMENTS IN BOTH COUNTRIES.

4. DCM SUGGESTED TO BORGONOVO THAT THE DISTORTED PRESS REPORTS COULD BE PLOY OF ACAN-EFE CORRESPONDENT IN TEGUCIGALPA, WHO HAD REPUTATION FOR IRRESPONSIBLE JOURNALISM, AND THAT BOTH GOVERNMENTS WERE BEING VICTIMIZED BY HIS STORIES. HE ALSO CONVEYED TO BORGONOVO HONDURAN FONMIN GALVEZ'S LOW-SCALE VERSION OF HONDURAN TROOP MOVEMENTS (TEGUCIGALPA 4563). BORGONOVO ACCEPTED THAT ACAN-EFE'S CORRESPONDENT MAY HAVE DELIBERATELY RESORTED TO FABRICATED CRISIS REPORTING, BUT THAT THE IMPACT OF SUCH REPORTS MADE LIFE MORE DIFFICULT FOR HIM SINCE THE LOCAL MEDIA HERE WAS NOW ASKING WHAT GOES INTENDED TO DO TO RESCOND TO REPORTED HONDURAN TROOP MOVEMENTS ALONG SALVADORAN BORDER.  
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